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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 00802 121332Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 NIC-01 NEA-11 HEW-08

SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-20 DRC-01 (ISO) W
---------- 008426
R 120944Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2504
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEM3 6)9,$9, 1772
NQRUEHCR/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU 802
DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS GH
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT CLOSES UNIVERSITIES

1. ACCORDING TO LATEST, FRAGMENTARY REPORTS, GOVERNMENT HAS CLOSED COUNTRY'S THREE UNIVERSITIES AND ORDERED STUDENTS HOME.

2. APPARENTLY, OVER WEEKEND, STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN VISITING HO IN VOLTA REGION RETURNED TO ACCRA ALLEGING HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND BEATEN UP BY SOLDIERS AND HELD IN PRISON FOR THREE DAYS. OTHER REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF GHANA LEGON SAY THAT STUDENT WAS ARRESTED AND BEATEN ON FRIDAY AND RELEASED ON SATURDAY. ACCORDING THIS REPORT, UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAD
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 00802 121332Z

ALREADY BEGUN AN INVESTIGATION AND WERE URGINGSTUDENTS REMAIN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CALM. DURING WEEKEND STUDENT BODIES AT COUNTRY'S THREE UNIVERSITIES (LEGON, CAPE COAST, AND KUMASI) DECIDED TO PROTEST MILITARY BRUTALITY. AT LEGON, STUDENTS THIS MORNING ATTEMPTED ORGANIZE MARCH TO PRESENT PROTEST TO CHAIRMAN RULING NRC. COMMI-SSIONER FOR EDUCATION NYANTE WAS SENT TO UNIVERSITY TO PERSUADE STUDENTS AGAINST MARCH BUT FAILED. SOME REPORTS SAY HE WAS DRIVEN FROM CAMPUS; OTHERS SAY STUDENTS REFUSED TO LISTEN TO HIM. IN ANY EVENT, WHEN STUDENTS ACTUALLY BEGAN THEIR MARCH, ARMED TROOPS AND POLICE SET UP ROAD BLOCKS AND PREVENTED THEM FROM ENTERING CITY. ACCORDING ONE REPORT, NYANTE HAD ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE FOR A DELEGATION OF STUDENTS TO SEE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND ONE SOURCE HAS IT THAT CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF ASHLEY-LASSEN DID SEE DELEGATION THIS MORNING. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HAPPENED IN CAPE COAST AND KUMASI. THE RESULT OF THE ENTIRE AFFAIR, HOWEVER, IS THE GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF THE UNIVERSITIES.

6. STUDENTS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT AND VOCIFEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THE NRC AND ITS REVOLUTION, AND, AS OF THIS TIME, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY POLITICALMOTIVATION TO THIS MORNING'S EVENTS EXCEPT THAT OF PROTESTING MILITARY TREATMENT OF STUDENT. HADSEL

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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
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